



Some of Richmond's Streets: Stories from the Grave

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Richmond

Richmond began as a small survey camp in 1842 on the hill where the Holy Trinity Church is located and soon grew into a village. 1857 saw the establishment of the Waimea East Road Board but Queen Street and other roads was not surveyed out and legalised until 1873. Dissatisfaction with the state of the roads led to the establishment of the Richmond Highway District Roads Board in 1881 servicing Stoke and Richmond. Richmond was constituted a town in 1886 and a Town Board (separate from the Roads Board) was set up and it promoted the establishment of the Richmond Fire Brigade and developed a water supply scheme. Tensions and squabbles with Waimea County Council led to a petition to separate Richmond from Waimea County and this was granted in 1891 when it became a separate Borough Council.

One of the early settlers of the area was George Snow, a tailor. He named the settlement after his English home, Richmond-on-Thames, in Surrey. He is also thought to have named The Star and Garter Hotel, built in 1843, after a hotel of the same name in Richmond-on-Thames.

Life was tough as Richmond developed compared to current day standards. Reticulated water arrived in 1887 and street lighting came in 1908 with six lamps. The Waimea Electric Power Board was established in 1929 but 1,765 subscribers did not get “turned on” until 1934-35! The night cart was introduced in 1919 and continued until this system and a large number of (failing) septic tanks were replaced by pipes between 1962-1974.

The Cemetery

Six acres of land was purchased from W O Cautley (Cautley Street being another Richmond Road) in the mid-1850s to be used as a public burying ground. Surveyed by Thomas J Thompson, he was listed in the *NZ Gazette* on 21 August 1860 as one of five trustees, the others being John Young, Jacob Batey, Thomas Butler, and William Harkness.

Originally a mortuary chapel, which seated approx. 60 people, stood inside the gates on the south side. It was demolished around 1940. The cemetery was open to all burials with paupers burials



being conducted free of charge. The first burial was on 18 October 1856 [William Cleaver, Block Old, Row 1, Plot 5]. The cemetery was taken over by the Richmond Borough Council in 1894.

Richmond's first Borough Council 1891. Standing from left in the photograph, John Croucher, Joseph Best, Alfred Sheat, James Blair (Town Clerk). Seated from left in the photograph, Samuel Fittall, Joshua Papps, George Talbot (Mayor), and William Harkness.

John Sheat – Alfred Sheat Street

Block Old, Row 7, Plot 19

John Sheat, born 13 April 1820 in Baltonborough, Somerset arrived in Nelson as a 22 year old aboard the *Mary Ann* in February 1842. He married Eliza Avery (nee Smith) at the Wesleyan Church in Nelson on 26 June 1848. Eliza's first husband John died in 1846 leaving two sons, one of whom died three months later. John Sheat and Eliza had four daughters and four sons between 1849 and 1862. In 1850 John Sheat bought the Cullen orchard which was Section 217 by the A&P Grounds. The house was renamed Somerset House. William Cullen went back to England as his wife wouldn't come to NZ. Next door on Headingly Lane was Thomas John Thompson and family. Cullen left the cider press for John Sheat. John Sheat sent apples to the West Coast and England and made cider. Somerset was sold by Alfred Sheat in 1909.

John Sheat and Eliza had 8 children between 1849 and 1862, Elizabeth, Joseph, Emma, Alfred, John, George, Jane, and Eliza. William Avery, Eliza's son, was raised as the eldest son of the family. At age 26, he moved to Marlborough and farmed at Fairhall. He had two marriages and eleven children. He was active in local affairs and was a Methodist lay-preacher.

Eliza died on 23 February 1870, and her children would have been aged 8 to 27 years. But John was married again on 16 February 1875 to Ann Birch Redwood. John died 7 April 1884 in Pihama, Taranaki while his sons John and Joseph. He was brought back and buried in Richmond. Ann died 10 years later on 17 July 1894 and is buried in Wakapuaka Cemetery (in the Roman Catholic section).

Eldest daughter Elizabeth married Joseph Best, son of early settler Charles Best, of Appleby. Her death in 1886 was widely reported as she committed suicide at their home in Richmond by taking "Rough on Rats", She left seven children, the eldest 14, the youngest a few months, She was reported as having been 'very low-spirited' in recent months. She is buried in Richmond Cemetery.

Joseph and his brother John farmed in Taranaki. One of Joseph's daughters, Ruth Sheat, after graduating MA, returned to Nelson and was a well-regarded French teacher at Nelson Girls College. His son, Joe, was a lawyer in New Plymouth and his other son, William, became an MP. John Sheat did not marry and suffered considerable ill-health.

Second daughter Emma (1852-1895) married John Saywell (1844-1881) in 1875. John was the 11th of 15 children, born 1844 to George and Susan Saywell (also buried in Richmond Cemetery) who came out with family on the Martha Ridgeway. They initially lived in Wellington, moving to Nelson in the early 1850s. John and Emma went to Christchurch and had three children but John died in 1881 and Emma returned to Richmond. She is buried in Richmond Cemetery in the same plot as John and Eliza.

The fourth child and second of John and Eliza was Alfred Sheat after whom the street is named. Alfred was born in Richmond on 21 February 1854. He was an inaugural member of the Richmond District Highway Board in 1881 and was the third Mayor of Richmond serving from

1907-1910. Alfred married Laura Herford Thompson (1865-1953), the daughter of surveyor Thomas J Thompson at St Albans Church, Appleby on 20 February 1893. They had five children. In 1909 he sold the family home, Somerset. For a few years after, he lived in Belgrove. In 1914, he and his family moved to the Whakatane District in the North Island. Alfred bought a farm on the recently-drained Rangitaiki Swamp. Alfred died in Whakatane on 25 October 1928. His daughter, Marjorie Sheat, inherited the painting “The Little Emigrant” by the English artist Laura Herford from her grandmother, Laura Thompson. In 2007, Marjorie donated it to The Suter Gallery. Laura Herford visited the Thompsons in Nelson in 1864. She was inspired by Sarah Thompson’s story of her voyage to New Zealand. The painting was sent to New Zealand packed with a piano that TJ Thompson had requested.



George Sheat moved to Canterbury in his teens, returned to Nelson to marry a local girl, Ada Martha Betsy Millard from Waimea West and settled in Dunsandel. He, too, was prominent in local affairs and farming. He had 9 children.

Jane Sheat did not marry and died while visiting Dunsandel and is buried there with her brother and his wife.

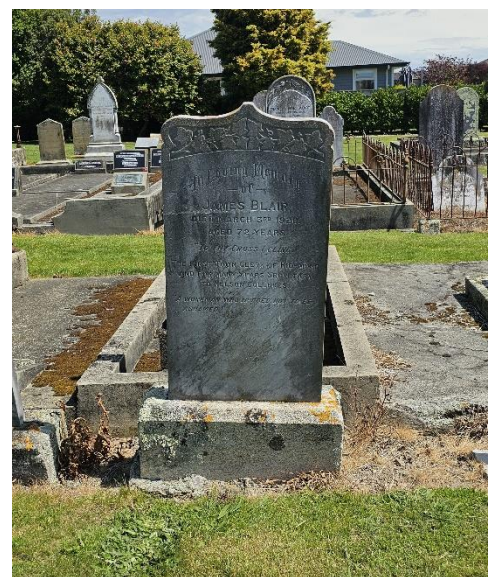
Eliza Sheat, youngest of the family, married Thomas Bell and moved to Murchison. Eliza and Thomas were the parents of Muriel Bell – see below.

James Blair – Blair Terrace

Block Old Row 10, plot 43

James, born 22 May 1847 in Gorbals, Lanark, arrived in Richmond from Scotland in 1886 with his wife Catherine (nee McLeod, 1849-1926), two sons and a daughter. An accountant by training, he became Clerk for the Richmond Town Board and was the first Town Clerk for the Richmond Borough Council in 1891. He was paid a salary of £45 which rose a year later to £60. He resigned in 1902 to become Secretary to the Nelson College Board of Governors.

He was a talented musician and taught singing in Nelson and also at Richmond school. The family lived on 3 and half acres on Surrey Road in a nine-room house called ‘Dunmalvin’. John died 3 March 1920 and Catherine died 25 July 1926.



John Wallis Barnicoat – Barnicoat Place

Block Old, Row 11, Plot 27.

A pioneer surveyor who arrived in Nelson on the *Lord Auckland* in February 1842. John was born in Falmouth, England in 1814. He was educated at Falmouth Preparatory School before being articled as a Civil Engineer. He practiced this profession until moving to Nelson.

He and his partner Thomas John Thompson secured the contract to survey 11,000 acres in Waimea East into 50 acre lots and to provide roads. They began surveying on 11 April 1842 and finished on 22 August 1842. He was involved in other surveys in the Moutere, Marlborough (surviving the Wairau Affair), Motueka, Aorere, Takaka, and Dunedin.

A member of the Nelson Provincial Council from inception in 1853 until its abolition in 1876; he acted as Speaker for 19 years. He was a member of the Education Board, Nelson Diocese Synod, Waimea District Roads Board, Mechanics Institute Library, a lay reader and tireless worker for the Anglican Church, and he was called to be a member of the Legislative Council from 1883 until 1902.

He married Rebecca Lee Hodgson in 1849 and they had 7 children. John died 2 Feb 1905 and Rebecca in 1902. Their daughter Rosamond who died in 1947 is buried with them.

Rebecca arrived in Nelson on the *Himalaya* 10 Jan 1844, aged 13 with her parents William, a blacksmith, aged 54 and wife Agnes aged 36 and 7 children. Rebecca was teaching as a governess in Stoke before she married John. Two Miss Martins and Mrs R. MacRae were among her pupils.

John was a well-known figure in Nelson taking part in many public positions (including first Chairman of Waimea County (1877-1884). He was a most courteous Englishman with a quaint sense of humour, always walked to the train about a mile from Ashfield to meet or farewell his visitors. He was twenty years older than Rebecca. They lived in a quaint old home with its sun dial and cobblestone veranda. They lived happily there all their long-married life.

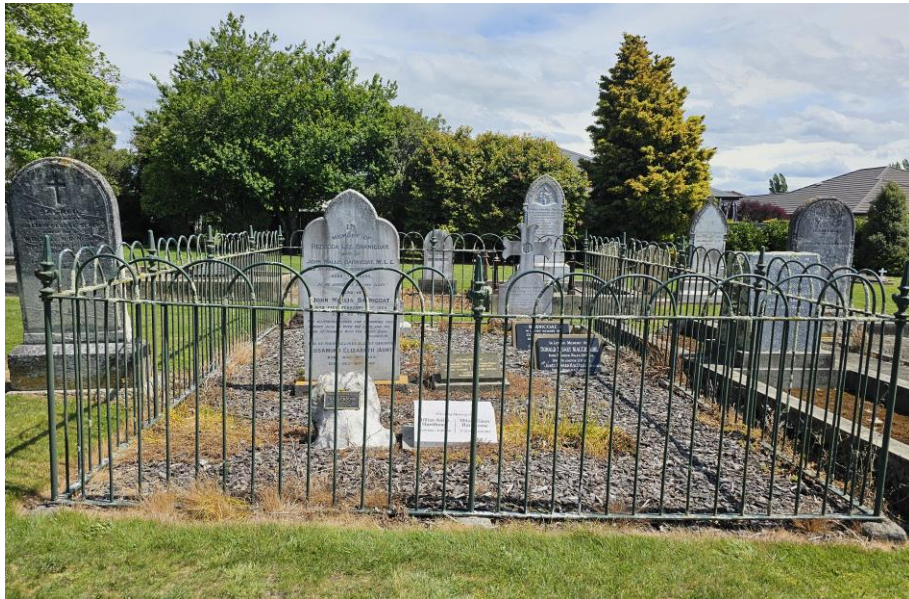
Barnicoat Place is in the area where John and family first lived before settling on 70 acres of land down where the MDF plant is today. The Barnicoat Oaks that John planted are still there. One of his other daughters, Constance (1877-1922), after whom the meeting room at Richmond Library is named, was educated at Nelson Girls' College and Canterbury University College (B.A. 1895). She studied languages and for many years acted as special foreign correspondent for English and New Zealand newspapers.



Mr Barnicoat NPM



Mrs Barnicoat NPM



George Talbot – Talbot Street

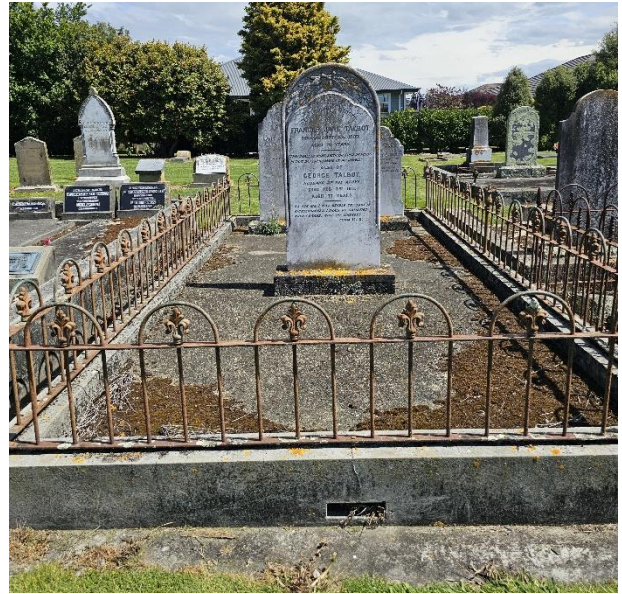
Block Old, Row 11, plot 46

George was born in Wyke Regis, Dorset in 1834 and baptised at Weymouth St Paul on 15 June 1834. He married Frances Jane Cox at Weymouth in 1857 and they then moved to New Zealand. Their nine children were all born in Richmond.

George was elected the first Mayor of Richmond in 1891 and he retired from this position in 1903. He had previously served on the Richmond District Roads Board and the Town Board. He was also A&P Association Treasurer and he was on the Education Board and the Charitable Aid Board. Along with other elected representatives, he was on the Rocks Road Board and Richmond contributed £500 to its construction. He also managed to find time to become a chess champion.

He built Dorset House in Dorset Street and lived there after moving from his farm in Appleby in 1897.

George and Frances celebrated their Golden Wedding shortly before she died on 22 August 1907. George died on 3 February 1911.

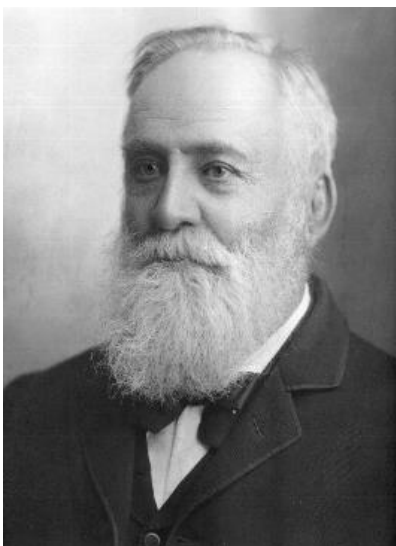


John Martin Croucher – Croucher Street

Block Old, Row 12, Plot 61.

John Croucher was born Kent, England in 1843, the son of John Croucher and Maria Martin. He died on 18 September 1916, a few months after his grandson Harold Walter Croucher who was just 10 years old.

John came to New Zealand on the ship Wild Duck, arriving with his family in Wellington on 15 January 1861 as a single boy of 17 years. John married Elizabeth Jary on 17 May 1864 in Spring Grove. She and John had 10 children, all of whom survived into adulthood. John was an early flour miller and baker, he was a member of the Richmond Town Board, the A & P Association, the first Richmond Borough Council, and was the second Mayor of Richmond serving from 1903 – 1907. He also represented Richmond on the Hospital Charitable Aid Board.



Unfortunately, John's first wife, English-born Elizabeth Croucher, died aged 36 leaving her ten children between the ages of 7 weeks and 15 years (b 22 October 1845 in Heacham, Norfolk, England, d 24 July 1880.) She is buried further over (Old Block, Row 6, Plot 18.)

Sixteen months later, John married Matilda Kelling (Mathilda Kunigunda Gustava Kelling born 25 May 1847 m 22 Nov 1881). She was from the Ranzau Kelling family, New Zealand-born to German parents.

Shortly after leaving school, Matilda established a successful private school in Richmond, where she proved to be a gifted teacher. However, she ceased teaching when she married and

became mother to all the Croucher children. By then, the youngest was 18 months old. John and Matilda later had one daughter, Ethel Louise (1885-1971) who was a gifted violinist. Matilda continued to play a role in the community and was, for many years, a valued worker for the local Anglican Church.

She managed the family home which fronted Queen St and was known as 'Isleden', and supported John in his business at Croucher's Mill. (Matilda b 11 Oct 1845 d 22 Sept 1933, aged 87 years.)

In the same year of his first marriage, John set up a bakery in his house, and later built a very large flour mill, four stories high, where the Richmond Mall is now. It was destroyed by fire in 1878, and there was little help, except from the neighbours. Quoting from Papers Past:

"The neighbours mustered in force ... but their efforts to subdue the flames were perfectly futile, owing to the difficulty of procuring a sufficient supply of water, three of the wells in the immediate neighbourhood of the blazing building ... being very speedily emptied without producing any perceptible result." Nelson Evening Mail, 8 June 1878

While some wheat and flour were saved, and Croucher was insured for 400 pounds, it was still a big loss. Soon after this, the Richmond Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed, with John leading the discussions. A fire appliance arrived from Nelson by special train and training commenced. John served as Captain for a number of years.

John Croucher was soon able to build a more modern and efficient mill to replace the old - and by 1903 the successful business expanded with a new bakery and shop built in front of the mill. The mill was large and loud, with its gas engine letting out a periodic "bang" that could be heard throughout Richmond – everyone in town knew when the mill was operating! Horse and carts at first, and later delivery vans, took Croucher's baking around the district.



For efficient delivery of flour from the mill to the bakehouse, a flying-fox style wire was strung between the two buildings and sacks of flour were sent along it. My grandfather Brick Holland worked in the mill. One day he sent his boy Charlie, down the wire in a sack. The staff in the bakehouse were shocked to see a little boy emerge!

John Croucher was a prominent businessman in early Richmond. After his death in 1916, his sons Ethelbert (Bert) and Hayes took over the mill and bakehouse. In turn, Hayes' sons Sidney and Albert also worked in the family business after leaving school. The buildings were demolished in 1945. Sidney later went out on his own in business and established the Suburban Bus Company.

John was a civic man, a highly respected resident of Richmond. He was keen to foster Richmond's progress. As second mayor of Richmond from 1903 to 1907 with Matilda acting as host at many formal functions in her role as mayoress, the couple contributed much to the advancement of the Borough and District.

John died in 1916 aged 73. Matilda died in 1933, and is also buried here in the Richmond Cemetery, just across the way from the main family plot. (Old Block, Row 13 Plot 5)



**John and Matilda CROUCHER and ten children of Elizabeth Croucher c 1884.
NPM Photo Collection 179164**



**Ethel Louise Croucher, aka Louise. the 11th child of J M Croucher and daughter of Matilda.
NPM Photo Collection 64665**



Louise, she was a distinguished violinist and studied music at Leipzig in Germany. Buried in Richmond Cemetery as Ethel Louise Hoare. Her headstone simply says "LOUISE" with "THY WILL BE DONE" underneath. (Block B Row 12 Plot 86).

Muriel Emma Bell – Bell Street

Block Old, Row 11, Plot 62.

Muriel Bell, born on 4 January 1898 at Murchison, was the daughter of Thomas Bell, a farmer, and his wife, Eliza Sheat. She began her education at Murchison School. After losing her mother in a tramcar accident in 1907 in Wellington, Muriel and her family moved into town where her father became the seventh Mayor of Richmond in 1916-1917. This is why Bell Street bears the family name. But the story of Muriel is much more stimulating.

Encouraged by her stepmother, Jessie McNee, Muriel excelled in her education, winning scholarships that led her to Nelson College for Girls and later Victoria University College. She began her medical studies at the University of Otago in 1917, ultimately earning a Doctor of Medicine in 1926. Her pioneering research on goitre led to the introduction of iodised salt.



Muriel married James Saunders in 1928 but continued to use her maiden name. She was awarded a Research Scholarship for Medical Women of the British Empire in 1929 and returned to Dunedin in 1935 to take up a lectureship at Otago Medical School. A member of the Medical Research Council from 1937, Muriel also served on the Board of Health, advocating for school milk and better nutrition.

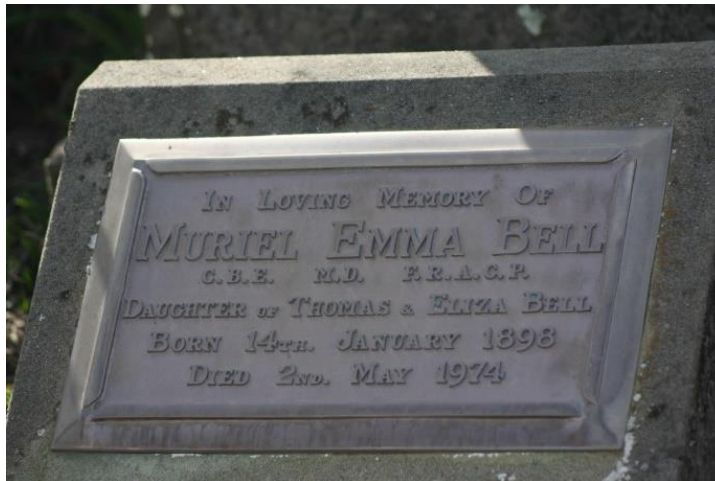
After her husband James died in 1940, Muriel was appointed the first nutrition officer in the Department of Health. She married Alfred Hefford in 1942 and became stepmother to his seven children. Her tireless work led to significant public health improvements, including campaigns for pasteurised

milk and fluoridated water.

After a sabbatical in the United States, in 1952, when she interviewed doctors about experiments with fluoridated water supplies, she returned to fight for fluoridation in New Zealand. This campaign, in particular, prompted her to describe herself as 'Battle-axe Bell' because of the struggle she had against formidable opposition headed by Dove Myer Robinson, the mayor of Auckland, in the 1950s.

Unusual, at times bizarre in her behaviour, she startled visitors, for example, by offering them a cup of tea while she was testing rats. If the kitchen bench was full, she would work on the floor. Renowned for her eccentricity and dedication, Muriel Bell was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Otago in 1968. She passed away on May 2, 1974 in Dunedin, leaving a lasting legacy in public health and nutrition in New Zealand. She is buried here in Richmond with her parents.

Muriel's maternal grandfather is John Sheat, mentioned above. One of Muriel's great grandfathers, William Gordon Bell, had managed a slave plantation in the Caribbean. When the owner died, a Dr Bell but no relation, William married his widow, Alziere Cervantes Bell. Alziere's mother was West Indian and Muriel was very proud of the features she inherited from her great grandmother. After abolition of the slave trade, the family returned to Scotland. James Bell, the oldest child, wanted to go to NZ as a surveyor so the whole family decided to emigrate, first settling in Wellington, later coming to Nelson. Muriel's father and his brother James farmed near Murchison in 1885. Thomas married Eliza Sheat on 13 April 1886 in Richmond. Thomas became Richmond's Mayor on 2 May 1917 but died 11 days later.



Darcy Fauchelle – Fauchelle Avenue

Block B, Row 11, Plot 62

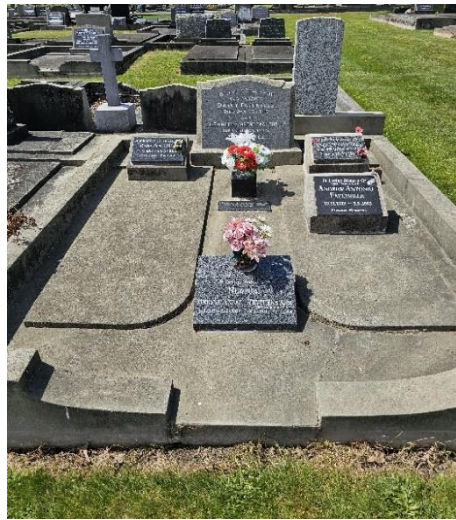
D'Arcy Fauchelle was born on 24 November 1881 in East Takaka and passed away on 23 January 1946. On 7 April 1915 he married Elizabeth Florence Nuttall at the Stoke Methodist Church. She was born on 30 July 1887 in Christchurch, and passed away on 28 July 1945 in Richmond. Darcy and Elizabeth had three sons and two daughters and farmed at Spring Grove until they moved into Salisbury Road, Richmond where he was still listed as a farmer in Electoral rolls. He won prizes at the A&P Show for his Border Leicester sheep.



BUT Fauchelle Avenue could have been named after his brother, Herbert Fauchelle, who was born in East Takaka on 2 January 1878 but may have had some connection with Richmond. The Richmond Borough Council had a policy to commemorate all fallen soldiers with a street name. Herbert died from wounds received in battle at Ash Shatibi, Egypt, on 4 September 1915. His medals were sent to his eldest brother William who was connected with Nelson Cool Storage in Richmond.



D'Arcy Street and Herbert Street are respectively named after these two men and Elizabeth and Florence Streets after D'Arcy's wife.



Hugh Lancelot Brown – Hugh Brown Place

Block Cm Row 11, Plot 54

The large white house that sits on the upward slope of Hill Street by Hillplough Heights was the only one in this area for many years. Hugh Lancelot Brown built this house with a commanding view over the Waimea Plains. It was his daughter Gladwyn who subdivided the land in the 1990s and named Hugh Brown Place in memory of her father.



Hugh was born 25 January 1896 in Horarata, Canterbury. He married Lucy Buckingham (1898-1988) on 20 January 1926 and must have gone to Victoria University as an older student. He graduated with a BA in 1938 and when he was called up for service in WWII he was a teacher in Richmond. He was given the rank of Second Lieutenant with the Infantry Brigade and this was presumably where he gained the nick-name 'Bear'.

Hugh died on 23 January 1991 just shy of his 95th birthday. Lucy had predeceased him on 22 November 1988.



Albert Rainbow Tuffnell – Tuffnell Street

Block A, Row 3, Plot 39

One of Richmond's early entrepreneurs, Albert Rainbow Tuffnell played an important role in both business and local government in the Richmond borough. As well as running a successful plumbing business Albert also served capably as Deputy Mayor of the Richmond Borough from 1935-1938 and Mayor from 1939-1946 during World War II.

Albert was born in Wanganui on 22 July 1888 to Thomas William and Sarah Elenor Tuffnell, nee Rainbow. Albert's father had emigrated to New Zealand in 1876 from England and settled in Wanganui. Albert was the youngest of four children. He was just 8 years old when his father died., Albert had a very tough childhood, especially after his mother re-married. He left home and went to live with relatives.



A. R. Tuffnell.

Albert was initially apprenticed to the Graham Brothers plumbing firm in Wanganui. However, once he qualified, they were unable to pay him a tradesman's wage and he decided to make his own way in the world, and move to Nelson where a friend with a plumbing business had offered him a job.

In 1915 he married Charlotte Kidson (1888-1968, m 20 April 1915) from the Port Hills, the Kidson lighthouse family. A year later the couple moved to Richmond where Albert set up his own plumbing and tinsmith business. He became renowned for making water tanks, and used the slogan "Where the best tanks come from". A large sign proclaiming this was on the side of the building in Queen St.

As a plumber by trade and with his set of tools, Albert set out on his bicycle to solicit business. When there was no other work available, he recycled kerosene tins into letter-boxes for sale. Jobs further afield meant a train trip, with Albert often camping on site until the job was done. Over the years he graduated to Gracie the horse, then to various cars and trucks to which he strapped the tanks.

Early on, he had an arrangement with W. E Wilkes builders who were pleased to have the services of a local plumber. Wilkes' at that stage also had an undertakers' business and Albert would often line the coffins with lead, and then solder the lids on once the deceased was inside. He also made tins for the bakery next-door, milk cans for the Cook's dairy factory in Brightwater. At the time of the Murchison earthquake in 1929 Albert camped at Murchison for several weeks repairing damaged plumbing and tanks.

Charlotte and Albert had three daughters and a son. The workshop was in Queen Street behind the two-storied family home. A new house was built at the back of the section, facing onto Oxford Street (number 64) about 1938.

Albert was active in community affairs being deputy mayor for five years and mayor from 1938 until 1946. He served as President of Nelson Master Plumbers Association and was the National President in 1949-1950. He belonged to the Holy Trinity Church in Richmond, where he was a Sunday School teacher, a Lay Preacher and a member of the Synod. He was also a member of the Nelson Cathedral Building Committee.

Daughter Hazel Williams tells a story of when her parents first came to Richmond to live. Typical of the day, local ladies were in the habit of leaving visiting cards amongst a certain select group. Hazel's father told her he'd heard that the ladies could not decide whether or not to leave visiting cards for her mother Charlotte, although she did have some standing in the community as a Kidson from the Port Hills. Some thought that because he was a businessman and she was his wife, she should be called on. Others thought that they shouldn't visit because he was just a plumber, a very low calling on the social scale. Eventually they decided NOT to visit. However, as the years went by and Charlotte became the Mayoress and even had Lady Bledisloe, the Governor-General's wife come to her home, her standing in the community improved.

In 1976, due to ill health, Albert passed the business on to his son Geoff, who in turn handed it on to his son Trevor, later joined by younger brother Dennis. The business was eventually expanded into hire and for a time was one of Richmond's largest employers. Many well-known plumbers in the top of the south did their apprenticeships with A R Tuffnell Limited.

Charlotte died in 1968 aged 80 and Albert died in 1981 aged 92 years.



William Edward Wilkes – Wilkes Street

Block B, Row 1, Plot 15

William, born in Alcester, Warwickshire, England in 1867, arrived in New Zealand as a child on the *Star of India* in 1874 with his parents George (1840-1915) and Mary Ann (1848-1920). He was the eldest child of three although one brother, Thomas died on the voyage although brother Frank was born aboard the ship. The family moved to Richmond and 6 other siblings joined the family.

William was apprenticed to Mr Robert Malcolm in 1880 to learn the carpentry trade. After some time spent in Sydney learning the art of constructing stairways, he returned in 1892 to commence his own business in Queen Street opposite where the TDC offices are now located. Wilkes Construction, in its various forms over the years, built a substantial proportion of Richmond houses.

William married Edith Amelia Sutton (1867-1934) in the Wesleyan Parsonage on 29 December 1892. (Edith was a granddaughter of Georger Sutton below.) They had two sons.

He was the eight Mayor of Richmond serving from 1917-1923. It is highly likely that William, Edward, and George Streets in Richmond are also associated with the Wilkes family because of the timing when this part of Richmond was developed.



William also set up as a funeral director in 1920 with a four-wheeled hearse drawn by two black horses which were replaced in 1923 by a new Dodge motor hearse. This business was eventually sold to Shone and Co in 1947.



Samuel Fittal – Fittal Street

Block Old, Row 2, Plot 67.

Samuel was born in London 1837, the 4th son of Stephen Fittall of Kent. He left England for health reasons arriving in Wellington in 1858 and moved to Nelson in 1881.

Samuel married Ellen Hooper in Nelson 24 May 1864. Ellen arrived in Nelson from England on the *Cresswell* in 1859. Edwin and Eliza Hooper, her parents travelled with her along with her brothers James and Francis.

After Samuel arrived in 1881, he was overseer of roads for the Richmond District Roads Board. He was one of the promoters of the Richmond water supply scheme and one of the prime movers in making Richmond a borough.

Samuel was a member of the Richmond Town Board and the first Richmond Borough Council and then became the second Town Clerk after James Blair resigned. He served Richmond for 26 years.

After he was elected a Member of the Licensing Committee in 1892, he was taken to task by the Baptist Church, of which he was a leading member and preacher, for his “alleged support of the liquor traffic”. It was said in his defence at a meeting in the Church, that a lively evening’s entertainment had been provided. The storm soon blew over with Mr. Fittall retaining his standing in church and civic circles. He chaired the NZ Baptist General Assembly when it was held in Nelson in 1902.

Samuel and Ellen had three daughters and four sons, one son dying in India and another in France. The family lived on the northern corner of Salisbury Road & Queen St. Samuel died 27 May 1917 and Ellen died 9 June 1925. A Mrs Fittal was a librarian in Richmond in the early days.



**Fittall house and paint shop, Queen St,
Salisbury Road corner, Richmond**



Samuel Fittall NPM



Robert Mercer Paton – Paton Road

Block Old, Row 2, Plot 51

Robert Mercer Paton was born 12 September 1824 in Agra, in India. If you have been to see the Taj Mahal, you have been to Agra! Robert was the son of Colonel John Forbes Paton (1797-1827) and Emily Stafford (1799-1871). It is interesting that both his parents were born in India, and that it was his grandfather from Aberdeenshire, who first went to India to serve in the British Army. Robert served in the Bengal Horse Artillery. A Horse Artillery was a type of light, fast-moving, and fast-firing artillery which provided highly mobile fire support to cavalry units. Robert Paton retired with the rank of Major.



Major Robert Mercer Paton

He had married Maria Young in Calcutta on 7 September 1847 and they had nine children born in India. Three died very young, and the remaining six emigrated to New Zealand with their parents. Another four children were born in Hope, a total of 13 births. Major Paton first bought land in the Ngatimoti area close to James George Deck, also a retired East India Company officer. No doubt the Indian Mutiny of 1857 when native troops in the Bengal Army revolted against British rule led to their immigration. The family came directly to Nelson via the steamer “Lord Worsley” arriving on 3 May 1862. James Deck was the founder of the Plymouth Brethren, in the Motueka area and the Paton family held similar beliefs.

However, Major Paton soon purchased a property in Hope named “Beacon Hill”. At that time, it was 653 acres with a small cob-house built in 1852. He paid £3,000 in August 1863 (or October 1864) to the previous owner Edward Webby (Whibby) and became a successful sheep farmer. The Ngatimoti farm was later sold.

Robert became a member of one of the Plymouth Brethren communities in the Richmond area, but with more liberal views than those of the Decks. He was keen to spread his religion and spoke at different churches throughout the district. He was well-known as a zealous Christian with a lifelong desire to spread his beliefs, distributing tracts and giving sermons whenever he had the opportunity. He was reputed to be a man of a highly benevolent nature.

In 1872, while on a barque the “William Prowse” at Port Nelson, the retired Indian Officer had a serious accident. He fell down the hatchway onto a quantity of railway iron, a distance of 14 feet (about 4 metres). His right arm was badly crushed and he received internal injuries. However, he did recover.

Major Paton died on 28 October 1901 aged 77 years, and his wife, Maria, died 6 years later, on 28 October 1907, aged 81 years. Beacon Hill is still in the same family and is now in the care of the fifth generation.



Major Robert PATON, wife Maria, and their children and spouses, at Beacon Hill.



The Taj Mahal, Agra, India. Robert Mercer Paton was born in Agra.

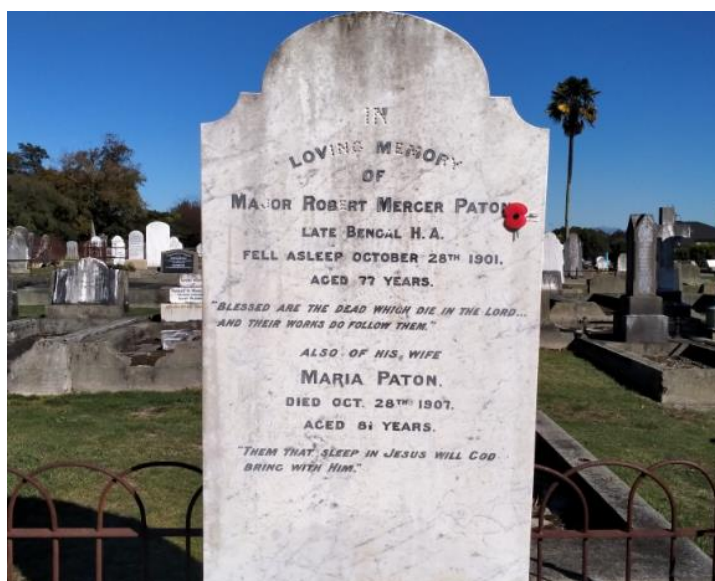
Children of Robert Mercer and Maria PATON:

Born in India

Emily Mary Paton 1848–1935 died in Gisborne
Ellen Frances Paton 1850–1850 died as baby
Emma Mackenzie Paton 1851–1938 never married, buried Richmond
Charles Henry Paton 1852–1853 died young
Isabel Stafford Paton 1852–1923 never married
James Kenneth Paton 1854–1918 died in Otago
Charles Stewart Paton 1855–1926 never married, died in Gisborne
Edward Fraser Paton 1857–1940 married, of Nelson
Jessie Campbell Paton 1859–1860 died young

Born in New Zealand

Henry Davidson Paton 1863–1939 father of Margaret (k.a. Daisy: Mrs Bert RUSS) of “Bearcroft” Appleby, and of Sybil (Mrs Wallace DRON) of “Beacon Hill” Hope; also of Robert Paton and John Paton.
Arthur Malcolm Paton 1864–1929 never married
Allan Hugh Mercer Paton 1866–1924 died Western Australia, never married.
Edith Nora Paton 1868–1936 never married



Dr Hubert O Washbourn – Washbourn Drive

Block Old, Row 3, Plot 47.

Born Sept 1866 in Onekaka, Golden Bay, he arrived in Richmond in 1919 and practised until his early death on 19 July 1927. He bought a farm in Oxford Street with the aim of establishing a breed of pedigree Jersey cows and employed a farm manager. He built a two storied house in Oxford Street. He also purchased Hillcrest for a private hospital in 1923 and installed some electrical equipment which he used to treat rheumatics.

After his death, his practice and house were sold to Dr Currie and the farm to his farm manager Jack Disher. The house and grounds were later sold to the Richmond Borough Council who turned it into a public park, Washbourn Gardens. Hillcrest was sold to the two Kidd sisters who ran the hospital for 26 years.

The memorial gates at the Richmond showgrounds were erected in his memory. His father Henry Philip “Harry” Washbourn and mother Clara Emily nee Caldwell, Washbourn, both buried in the Richmond Cemetery. Hubert’s brother also buried at the Richmond Cemetery.

Hubert's grandfather, William Everly Washbourn of Tillingdown, Surrey, emigrated to Nelson in 1851 on the ship *Maori*. He was a goldmining Engineer and eventually a Paintworks owner in Parapara but also influential in the development of the region.

Hubert was educated at Nelson College and, after a short term on the staff of the Bank of New Zealand, Nelson, decided to take up studies for his medical degree. He went to Edinburgh University, and after experience in Durham, England



he returned to Nelson in 1914 and commenced practice at Richmond. He married Constance Olave Ward on 24 October 1913 in Edinburgh. They had one son, and two daughters.



Dr H Washbourn and Olave Washbourn

George Sutton – Sutton Street

Block Old, Row 6, Plot37

George and his wife Hannah arrived in Nelson on board the *Bolton* on 15 march 1842. They were accompanied by their teenage daughters Matilda and Martha, and sons John, William, Henry, and James, who was born aboard the ship. After squatting for some years in the Maitai Valley while awaiting a suitable farm, George bought land in Hill Street in 1853.

George was a loyal Methodist, being one of the foundation members in Richmond. The town acre allocated to George was the spur used for the survey camp by surveyors Barnicoat and Thompson. This he exchanged with the Anglican Diocese for an acre adjoining his farm in Hill Street. The original homestead was known as 'Selbourne'. Much of the farmland owned by the Sutton family is now occupied by Garin College and Saxton Field.

After George and Hannah moved off the farm, they moved to Upper Queen Street to a house opposite George Street.

An alternative possibility is that Sutton Street was named after Edith Amelia Sutton, the wife of William Edward Wilkes mentioned above.



Joshua Frederick Papps – Papps Carpark

Block B, Row 1, Plot 20

Joshua was born in Holt, Wiltshire, England and came to New Zealand in 1873 on board the Forfarshire landing in Wellington. He married Selina Anne Timms (1855-1892) on 1 January 1874 and in the same year set up his coachbuilding and wheelwright business on a block fronting Queen Street and Cambridge Street, with a house on Oxford Street. Selina and Joshua had four sons and three daughters but Selina died on 21 September 1892. Joshua later married Bertha Winn (1866-1959) in the Wesleyan Church in Dovedale on 17 September 1896 and they had a further three daughters and three sons.

His business interest extended across Nelson, Westland and Marlborough and he built carts and carriages of all shapes and sizes. He was also very active in the community being a member of the first Richmond Borough Council serving 15 years, he was a member of the licensing trust and the Richmond School Committee, a Fire Brigade member, secretary and librarian to the Mechanics Institute Library, Captain of the Richmond Cricket Club, and also a member, and leader, of the Richmond Town Band - yes they had one.



James Petrie – Petrie Carpark

Block Old, Row 12, Plot 52.

Born 1839 Inverurie, near Aberdeen and died aged 91 on 4 November 1930. He married Ellen Curtis in Wellington on 1870. They settled in Richmond in 1872 after James was involved in establishing the first telegraph lines in the South Island. He became the first appointed Postmaster of Richmond in 1873, a position he held for 31 years. When the railway opened in 1876, he was appointed as Station Master and combined both jobs retiring in 1903.

The family lived in The Grange from 1892; from 1920 it was run as a nursing home by Mrs Nettie Troup. The Grange stood on Gladstone Road surrounded by 3 acres of orchard and trees. The 12 roomed house was built c1882 by Thomas Hodder. In 1897, James moved into a house he had built on Wensley Road.

James and Ellen had two sons and a daughter. Ellen, who was born in Wellington on 26 October 1850, died on 19 August 1927 aged 76.



**The Grange, The Petrie Family Home
NPM img no. 175353**



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